

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

**KUBOTA et al.**

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**March 17, 2005**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend as follows: